

MaineCare Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

November 1, 2022

10:00 a.m. to 11:40 a.m.

Via Zoom

I. CALL TO ORDER

Kathy Kilrain Del Rio called to order the regular meeting of the MaineCare Advisory Committee at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 1, 2022.

II. ROLL CALL

Kathy Kilrain del Rio conducted a roll call. The following persons were present:

Kathy Kilrain del Rio; Theresa Cahill; Laura Cordes; Jamie Cotnoir; Leo Delicata; Cathy Dionne; Gia Drew; Al Durgin; Rachel Dyer; Mark Eves; Candy Henderly; Jillian Jolicoeur; Sarah Lewis; Jim Martin; Vicki McCarty; Esther Miller; Beth Pearce; Dee Sabattus; Sara Squires for Atlee Reilly; Jeff Tiner; and David Winslow.

Department: Tia Bolduc; Henry Eckerson; Erik Eisele; Amanda Lee; Jenny Patterson; Michelle Probert; and Molly Slotznick.

Guests: Albert Abena; Elizabeth Cameron; Therese Cahill; Alex Carter; Jennifer Christian; Rachel Collamore; Mikenzie Dwyer; Kathy Fallon; Suzanne Farley; Cathy Hamilton; Vicki Jessup; Becca Matusovich; Dan Morin; Sana Osman; Karen Palleschi; Regina Philips; Pete Plummer; Malory Shaughnessy; and Bonnie Vaughan.

III. NEW BUSINESS

a.) DHHS Updates With Michelle Probert

- The Department anticipates it will hear by mid-November whether the PHE is going to end in January.
- The PCPlus application process is open until November 11th. Primary care practices can apply if they think they have qualified for a different tier, if they were not able to apply the first time around, or if they are a new practice.
- DHHS as a whole is holding strategic planning sessions around the Department's Behavioral Health Plan.
- Molly noted that the Department is pushing out the deadline for including attending provider NPI info in order for claims to pay to April 1st 2022, the same date that Medicare will begin enforcing the requirement. Providers should continue working towards compliance. Please reach out to your provider relations specialist or provider services if you have questions.

b.) MAC Membership Appointments—Erik Eisele

- Erik noted the Department is working to identify MaineCare members who would like to serve on the MAC. The Department is committed to ensuring we have the required number of appointments covered. Erik will be meeting with Kathy and Malory to set the next round of appointments.
- Michelle noted that the content of MAC meetings is oftentimes focused strongly on providers. We will be transitioning to including more of a member focused perspective.
- Cathy Dionne noted that if we want to engage more MaineCare members to participate in the MAC, we're going to need to present discussion topics in layman's terms.

c.) Rate System Updates

- Amanda presented a rate system timeline update. Of note:
 - The Behavioral Health rate studies vendor has shared a summary which we are reviewing.
 - Crisis Services are being analyzed by the vendor.
 - A vendor has been selected for Family Planning and we're working on the contract.
 - PRTF internal planning and research is still ongoing.
- Kathy asked whether special appropriations will be required for the wage adjustment set to occur in January. Michelle noted that Chapter 639 specifies that the MaineCare Stabilization Fund may be used if there are insufficient funds to cover those adjustments.

Rate subcommittee updates with Laura Cordes

- The next meeting will be held November 28th at 2:00 p.m. Anyone is welcome to attend. The committee continues to think about ways to engage consumers and members who are utilizing services as part of the discussion.
- Concern was expressed about the pending rounding rule that goes into effect January 1st, 2023. The committee would like to see an extension, if at all possible. Providers are understaffed, as are software vendors. The lack of staffing is creating issues with the current compliance date of January 1st.

d.) Dental Subcommittee Updates

- Kathy shared that the Dental Subcommittee is continuing to meet. One item they are focused on is the dental workforce challenge.
- Kathy noted the Department is working to continue to connect with dental providers, and MaineCare will be presenting at an upcoming Maine Dental Association event.
- There is a report requirement around utilization of the new adult dental benefit. David Jorgenson presented an overview of that report at the last meeting.

e.) **Enrollment for New MaineCare Coverage Categories**

- Esther Miller noted that OFI has a weekly report that tracks enrollment for the unborn child option. Esther will present updated enrollment counts as soon as they are available.

f.) **Implementation of New Rounding Rule**

- Pete Plummer noted there is confusion surrounding the rounding rule and unforeseen circumstances. Do providers need to document an unforeseen circumstance to be able to bill at 60%? Henry clarified that if a provider has delivered 60% of a service and an unforeseen or uncontrollable circumstance happens, they can round up and bill partial units.
- Malory asked if there is any possibility of getting a further extension of the rounding rule, as their programmers are having difficulties setting the process up. Jenny responded that we don't have an answer to that question right now, but if providers are experiencing difficulties they should discuss the issues with their provider representative as soon as possible.

g.) **Rulemaking/Waivers/SPA Packet—Jennifer Patterson**

- There are currently 2 open comment periods: the 1915k State Plan option and the non-emergency transport waiver renewal.
- Two rules were adopted since the last update: Section 45, Hospital Services and Section 25, Dental Services.
- We are expecting to adopt the final Section 65 rule shortly. We are also working to move forward with the COVID rule and finalize the School Health Services rule for proposal.

h.) **Communications Updates—Erik Eisele**

- Erik noted the Department is making plans should there be word in the middle of November that the public health emergency will be ending. There will be a meeting shortly thereafter if that 60-day notice comes.
- The Department is working on developing a rate setting website and hopes to share the next draft of the website with the Rate Setting subcommittee at the next meeting. Providers are encouraged to join the November 28th Rate Setting meeting at 2:00 p.m.

i.) **Items From Guests.**

None

h.) **Wrap Up**

- The next MAC meeting will be held Tuesday, December 6th, 2022 at 10:00 AM

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Kathy Kilrain Del Rio adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.